
Final
Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report
American River Pump Station Project
Placer County, California

Lead Agencies:

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
(NEPA Lead Agency)

Placer County Water Agency
(CEQA Lead Agency)

CEQA Responsible Agencies:

California Department of Parks and
Recreation

California Department of Fish and Game
Regional Water Quality Control Board

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This Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) is prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) NEPA procedures and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.

Reclamation and PCWA are pursuing the development of a year-round water diversion facility capable of diverting up to 35,500 acre-feet annually (AFA) of PCWA's water entitlements from its Middle Fork Project (MFP) on the American River. The project purpose includes providing PCWA with the year-round access to its MFP water entitlements from the American River, as it had before its pumps were removed in 1972 by Reclamation. Three alternatives, including the No Action/No Project, Mid-Channel Diversion, and Upstream Diversion, are evaluated in this EIS/EIR. With the exception of the No Action/No Project Alternative, the project alternatives all consist of constructing a diversion and intake structure, pump station, and associated facilities including pipelines, access roads, power lines and safety features in the American River Canyon within the Auburn Dam construction area. Reclamation and PCWA are presently negotiating a contract that will define the terms and conditions upon which the ownership of the facilities would be transferred to PCWA, including responsibilities for operation, maintenance, and related activities for the project.

The Mid-Channel Diversion Alternative is the proposed action. This alternative includes closure of the Auburn Dam construction bypass tunnel and restoration of the currently de-watered river segment near Auburn. Additional improvements would be implemented under this alternative to ensure public safety access near the project area.

The EIS/EIR analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the physical and natural environment that may result from construction, operation, and maintenance of the pump station project. Reclamation and PCWA have incorporated best management practices and other conservation measures as recommended by resource agencies to minimize impacts, which may occur due to implementation of a year-round pump station alternative.

The EIS/EIR evaluates impacts to the regional area watercourses associated with PCWA's proposed increased diversion of its American River water entitlement. Hydrologic impact analyses consider the effects of the project under varying hydrologic conditions and the impacts of the diversions on the potentially affected hydrologic system, including the North Fork American River, Folsom Reservoir, lower American River, and other Central Valley Project system components. The cumulative impacts to water supplies, fisheries and other aquatic species, wetland and riparian communities, including special-status species, recreational activities, and flood control are assessed as well as land use issues associated with PCWA's exercise of its existing entitlements.

The EIS/EIR will serve environmental review and consultation requirements pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (section 7c), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Wetlands Protection), and the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106).

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Prepared For:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



Placer County Water Agency



Prepared By:

SWRI SURFACE WATER
RESOURCES, INC.

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